

- β ²
- b) a plurality of extensions from said underside of said base frame for adapting and mounting to a wheeled support, and
 - c) means for joining said base frame at a substantially normal angle to said main frame, whereby the addition of said base frame greatly reduces tension and stress exerted by the weight of said pack on said retaining means on said main frame.
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Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27. (Amended) A customizing pack carrier for a pack comprising:

- β ³
- a) a main frame made up of one or more members dimensionally arranged to support a face of said pack when said face is leaned against it,
 - b) a base frame having a top surface upon which the bottom of said pack rests comprising:
 - a) slidably related front and back sections,
 - b) wherein the back section has an underside where at least one support member is attached,
 - c) wherein said front and back sections each contain a cavity capable of lodging an elastic member,
 - d) wherein one end of said elastic member is anchored inside the front section while the other end of said elastic member is anchored inside said back section,
 - e) wherein said front section further includes a substantially upright topside extension at its proximal end, and
 - c) means for joining said main frame at a substantially normal angle to said base frame, whereby pressure from the load directed normally to said topside extension automatically extends said elastic member and draws out said front section including any supporting legs attached to an underside of said front section thereby providing a stable bottom support for the pack at all times with minimum or no effort on the part of the user, whereby given a provision to anchor said pack to said main frame, the resulting loaded pack carrier is a neat looking and unified combination that is always stable even for varying load requirements, whereby when the top of said main frame is dimensionally within a person's arm reach and is mounted on casters, it becomes a pack carrier for walkers, and whereby when said main

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frame is dimensionally about a pack's height and is mounted on a bike, it becomes a pack carrier for upright or recumbent bike riders, and whereby when said main frame is incorporated in a scooter, it becomes a pack carrier for scooter riders.

Please amend claim 30 as follows:

30. (Amended) A customizing pack carrier for a pack comprising:

- a) a main frame made up of one or more members dimensionally arranged to support a face of said pack when said face is leaned against it,
- b) a base frame having a top surface upon which the bottom of said pack rests comprising:
 - a) slidably related front and back sections,
 - b) the back section having an underside wherein at least one support member is attached,
 - c) wherein one of said sections contains at least one substantially front-ward directed series of wavy indentations, each indentation having a crest and a trough,
 - d) wherein the other of said sections contains at least one flexing button comprising:
 - a) a button head with a smoothly curved side and straight side opposite each other,
 - b) an elongated section or neck extending substantially in the same general direction as said series of wavy indentations,
 - e) wherein the other section in (d) also contains a separate rigid control member with one side disposed adjacent the straight side of said button head having a control contact protrusion terminating in a straight surface slidably related against said straight side of said button head, wherein said control member is externally controlled by some means to freely and fixedly lodge and dislodge said button from said trough of one of said wavy indentations, and
- c) means for joining said main frame at a substantially normal angle to said base frame, whereby said sections are free to slide past each other when said button head is freely able to dislodge from any indentation thereby allowing said base frame to be adjusted as needed to the depth of the load, whereby given a provision to anchor said pack to said main frame, the

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resulting loaded pack carrier is a neat looking and unified combination that can be stabilized even for varying load requirements.

Please amend claim 33 as follows:

33. (Amended) A customizing pack carrier for a pack comprising:

- BS
- a) a main frame made up of one or more members dimensionally arranged to support a face of said pack when said face is leaned against it,
 - b) a base frame having a top surface upon which the bottom of said pack rests comprising:
 - a) slidably related front and back sections,
 - b) wherein the back section has an underside where at least one support member is attached,
 - c) wherein one of said sections includes at least one substantially front-ward directed series of wavy indentations, each indentation having a crest and a trough,
 - d) wherein the other of said sections includes:
 - 1. at least one flexing button having a smoothly curved button head fixedly connected by an elongated member to a user-controlled box,
 - 2. a smoothly curved channel,
 - 3. an elastic member or spring disposed inside a cavity wherein said elastic member is compressible by said user-controlled box,
 - 4. wherein said flexing button and said elongated member can retract along said smoothly curved channel as said user-controlled box is pulled toward said elastic member, and
 - c) means for joining said main frame at a substantially normal angle to said base frame, whereby said sections are rendered free to slide past each other when said button is in the retracted position thereby allowing said base frame to be adjusted as needed to the depth of the pack, whereby given a provision to anchor said pack to said main frame, the resulting loaded pack carrier is a neat looking and unified combination that can be stabilized even for varying load requirements.

Please amend claim 34 as follows:

34. (Amended) A customizing pack carrier for a pack comprising:

- 34
- a) a main frame made up of one or more members dimensionally arranged to support face of said pack when said face is leaned against it,
 - b) a base frame for supporting a pack comprising:
 - a. a topside of sufficient size for supporting the bottom of said pack,
 - b. an underside having a plurality of first support members proximal to the rear edge of said base frame wherein said first support members are equipped with swiveling casters,
 - c. an underside having at least one second support member proximal to the front edge of said base frame wherein said second support member is equipped with at least one wheel selected from a group comprising of ball bearing glides and swiveling casters, and
 - c) means for joining said main frame at a substantially normal angle to said base frame, whereby said pack carrier having said casters and said glides on both the rear and front edges of said base frame can be easily maneuvered in any direction along narrow aisles and other tight spots in school buses, inside school lockers and closets and can provide the user easy access to the contents of said pack thereon.

Please amend claim 36 as follows:

36. (Amended) A customizing pack carrier for a pack comprising:

- 36
- a) a main frame made up of one or more members dimensionally arranged to support a face of said pack when said face is leaned against it,
 - b) a base frame of size capable of supporting the bottom of said pack,
 - c) a plurality of extensions from said base frame for adapting and mounting to a wheeled support,
 - d) means for joining said main frame at a substantially normal angle to said base frame,
 - e) a comfortable padded support of resilient material spanning a section of said main frame adjacent said face of said pack selected from a group comprising of:
 - a. an already looped cushioning envelope containing said resilient material for slipping over said main frame down to the lower section thereof,

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- b. a wrap containing said resilient material for directly enveloping the lower section of said main frame by fastening its free edges directly onto said main frame using laces, buckles, buttons, hook and loop fasteners, zippers or other equivalent state of the art hardware,
 - c. a layer of said resilient material for attaching directly onto strategic locations on said main frame using laces, clasps, clamps, buttons, hook and loop fasteners, zippers and the like,
 - d. separate cushioning wraps for individually enveloping existing columns of said main frame, and
 - e. a semi-rigid or similar resilient plastic integral to said main frame, whereby an added layer of cushion between the rigid main frame of pack carriers and the back of the user provides more comfort and less fatigue and strain, and whereby when more desirable features are added to said padded support, said padded support can easily convert a plain pack carrier into an ergonomic pack carrier, whereby any pack already loaded onto said pack carrier can still be carried comfortably in the backpack mode without having to detach it from said pack carrier.

[Please amend claim 37 as follows:]

37. (Amended) The customizing pack carrier in claim 36 wherein said padded support comprises a layer of resilient material like foam, rubber, cotton, encased air, fiberfill, or the like having two faces bordered by two long and narrow sides and narrow top and bottom sides in a casing of fabric, plastic, vinyl, rubber, or similar flexible material.

Please amend claim 45 as follows:

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45. (Amended) The customizing pack carrier in claim 36 wherein said padded support comprises a layer of resilient material like foam, rubber, encased air, cotton, fiberfill, or other similar material having a convex component whose lateral cross-section is of shape approximating the thoracic and upper lumbar regions of the spinal curvature as defined by correct posture of the user's body, whereby the presence of said convex component at the right place and the

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weight of the load against the user's shoulders direct a component of said weight toward the lumbar region urging the user to straighten up and allowing his or her back to approach his or her naturally correct spinal curvature, thus, encouraging and promoting good posture and less fatigue while carrying said pack carrier.

Please cancel claims 48 and 49.

Please amend claim 50 as follows:

50. (Amended) The main frame in claim 12 wherein said means of extending and retaining positions of a pair of nested tubes, wherein said positions are capable of being held by a snap button having a positioning member, wherein said snap button is disposed inside the inner tube of said pair of nesting tubes, and wherein said positioning member of said snap button is engaged in an aperture on said inner tube and further capable of engaging into another aperture on the outer tube of said pair of nesting tubes, comprise:

- a) a catching extension of predetermined shape and dimension behind said positioning member of said snap button, so that said extension can latch on to another bumper structure of shape and dimension determined in conjunction with those of said catching extension,
- b) reinforced anchoring means for said snap button to eliminate the possibility of displacement when said positioning member is depressed for an extended time,
- c) a third elongated member dimensionally receivable inside said inner tube, said elongated member having a bottom terminal containing said bumper structure,
- d) wherein said third elongated member is delivered into said inner tube to reach a maintained position where its said bumper structure is capable of holding onto said catch extension when said extension is introduced,
- e) wherein said catch extension is introduced by pressing said positioning member of said snap button inward until the extension latches onto said bumper structure,
- f) wherein the desired position is reached by moving the inner and outer tubes relative to each other,

- g) wherein said bumper structure is released from said catch extension by withdrawing said third elongated member from said inner tube, and
- h) wherein said positioning member is engaged into the nearest aperture on said outer tube by finely adjusting positions of the inner and outer tubes relative to each other, whereby when said means of extending and retaining positions of nested tubes is applied to an extendible unit with a plurality of tubular columns each of which having at least two tubular nesting tubes that can only be extended if done simultaneously as by lifting a transverse bar connecting their top terminals like that required of a telescoping pack carrier, easily enables only one person with at least one hand to perform height adjustments.

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{Please amend claim 51 as follows:}

51. (Amended) Means in claim 50 wherein the combination of said catch extension and said bumper structure is selected from a group comprising of:
- a) catch 54-2 and bumper 64-2 or their equivalents,
 - b) catch 290 and bumper 289 or their equivalents, and
 - c) catch 292 and bumper 292 or their equivalents.

{Please amend claim 52 as follows:}

52. (Amended) A customizing pack carrier comprising:
- a) a base frame having a topside and an underside of size capable of supporting the bottom of a loaded pack,
 - b) a plurality of extensions from said base frame for adapting and mounting to a wheeled support,
 - c) a main frame comprising:
 - a) a pair of elongated members spaced apart and parallel each other when mounted by first means on said base frame joining bottom ends of said pair and by at least one transverse bar above said base frame,

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b) wherein said elongated members comprise a plurality of tubes each having predetermined longitudinal cross-sectional dimensions nested together and capable of being extended and retained in the extended position,
c) wherein the topmost or smallest pair of tubes has a quasi-permanent extendible length by some second means comprising:

- 13⁹
- a) a first tubular member having at least one terminal cavity along its length capable of receiving at least one first positioning member disposed in another tubular member coming its way,
 - b) a second tubular member dimensionally receivable inside said first tubular member having a plurality of apertures strategically disposed along its body, each aperture defining a particular desired extended height of said extendible column,
 - c) a control rod dimensionally receivable inside said second tubular member with at least one said first positioning member disposed along its length,
 - d) a structure for lifting said second tubular member,
 - e) wherein said provisions above are assembled by some third means such that said control rod is received inside said second tubular member which is received inside said first tubular member,
 - f) wherein at least one said first positioning member is made communicable at least one at a time by the user to at least one of the several height-defining apertures in said second tubular member, and
 - g) wherein any of the first positioning members engaged in one respective height-defining aperture of said second tubular member is further communicable to said terminal cavity in said first tubular member when said second tubular member is lifted out of said first tubular member thereby deterring further extension of said second tubular member,

whereby one pack carrier alone can accommodate a kid and an adult alike without the extra effort involved in the constant re-adjusting of the handle height each time the telescoping main frame is extended.

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[Please amend claim 53 as follows:]

53. (Amended) Second means in claim 52 further including:

a) a separate snap button disposed below said control rod having a second positioning member engaged in another aperture in said second tubular member that defines an extended column height that is higher than that derived from said first positioning members on said control rod, and

b) fourth means to anchor said control rod when none of its said first positioning members are active,

whereby using said separate snap button eliminates the otherwise needed extra length of said control rod to effect the same height options, thus, minimizing weight of the total assembly.

B⁹ [Please amend claim 54 as follows:]

54. (Amended) Second means in claim 53 wherein said fourth means to anchor said rod comprise an anchoring aperture disposed above the topmost said aperture on said second tubular member, wherein said anchoring aperture is in the position of engaging the topmost said first positioning member in said control rod when none of said first positioning members in said rod is engaged in any height-defining aperture, and wherein said anchoring aperture is not communicable with said terminal cavity in said first tubular member, so that said rod is anchored even though none of its said first positioning members is engaged in any terminal aperture,

whereby using just an additional aperture is an effective means of anchoring said rod.

[Please amend claim 55 as follows:]

55. (Amended) Second means in claim 52 wherein said plurality of apertures on said second tubular member is arranged in a straight vertical line, wherein said first positioning members in said control rod are arranged also in a straight vertical line adjacent or as close as possible and parallel said apertures on second tubular member, and wherein said control rod is manipulated in an up or down direction to engage at least one said first positioning member into one of said height-defining apertures.

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{Please amend claim 56 as follows:}

56. (Amended) Second means in claim 52 wherein said first positioning members on said control rod are arranged in a spiral manner along the length of said rod, wherein each said first positioning member is on the same horizontal plane as its respective height-defining aperture on said second tubular member, and wherein said control rod is manipulated in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction to engage at least one said first positioning member into one of said height-defining apertures on said second tubular member.

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B {Please amend claim 57 as follows:}

57. (Amended) Second means in claim 52 wherein a plurality of terminal cavities is arranged in a spiral manner along the length of said first tubular member, wherein said height-defining apertures are arranged along the same horizontal plane along the lower end of said second tubular member, wherein said control rod has at least one first positioning member on the same horizontal plane as said height-defining apertures, wherein said control rod is manipulated in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction to engage one said first positioning member into one of said height-defining apertures, and wherein each said height-defining aperture on said second tubular member is communicable to a specific spirally disposed terminal cavity on said first tubular member.

{Please amend claim 58 as follows:}

58. (Amended) Second means in claim 52 wherein said first positioning members on said control rod are arranged in a spiral manner along the length of said rod, wherein each said first positioning member is on the same horizontal plane as its respective height-defining aperture on said second tubular member, and wherein said second tubular member is manipulated in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction to engage at least one said first positioning member into one of said height-defining apertures on said second tubular member.

{Please amend claim 59 as follows:}

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β 59. (Amended) Second means in claim 52 wherein a plurality of terminal cavities is arranged in a spiral manner along the length of said first tubular member, wherein said height-defining apertures are arranged along the same horizontal plane along the lower end of said second tubular member, wherein said control rod has at least one first positioning member on the same horizontal plane as said height-defining apertures, wherein said second tubular member is manipulated in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction to engage one said first positioning member into one of said height defining-apertures, and wherein each said height-defining aperture on said second tubular member is communicable to a specific spirally disposed terminal cavity on said first tubular member.

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Please cancel claims 60 to 68.

Please amend claim 69 as follows:

69. (Amended) A customizing pack carrier for a pack comprising:

- β 10
- a) a main frame made up of one or more members dimensionally arranged to support a face of said pack when said pack is leaned against it,
 - b) wherein said main frame could stay substantially upright,
 - c) a load supporting base frame that is substantially level,
 - d) wherein said base frame has an underside with a plurality of support members,
 - e) first means for joining said main frame at a substantially normal angle to said base frame,
 - f) second means to incline said main frame frontward,
 - g) provisions for a seat comprising:
 - 1. a first sheet of material of sufficient size for use as said seat and to be retained by some third means behind a load on said carrier when not in use, and
 - 2. fourth means for attaching said seat onto said carrier,

whereby said provisions and said second means to incline said main frame allow a user to transform said customizing pack carrier into a backrest with seat even without unloading his or her pack from the carrier.

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[Please amend claim 70 as follows:]

70. (Amended) The customizing pack carrier in claim 69 wherein

- a) said fourth means for attaching said seat onto said carrier comprise a tie, ring, or similar looped material disposed at the distal corners of said seat to a lower section of said main frame of said carrier, wherein said tie, ring, or similar looped material can freely move up and down a certain predetermined distance along said main frame,
- b) said main frame further includes a cushioning envelope with an open bottom surrounding part of said main frame adjacent to said face of said pack, and
- c) said third means for retaining said seat when not in use comprises urging up said seat through said open bottom of said cushioning envelope, said tie, ring, or similar looped material freely moving up said main frame with said seat until said seat is totally contained inside said cushioning envelope,

whereby the user can easily replace said seat when it is worn out and can easily conceal said seat when not in use, and whereby the clothes of the user are not exposed to the dirty underside of said seat when the carrier is used subsequently in the backpack mode.

[Please amend claim 71 as follows:]

71. (Amended) The customizing pack carrier in claim 69 further including:

- a) a second sheet of about the same size appended to the front edge of said first sheet of material to produce a double-layered seat, and
- b) fifth means for attaching and sixth means for retaining said double-layered seat onto said carrier,

whereby the appended said second sheet provides a protective ground cover for the underside of said first sheet so that dirt do not get onto the clothes of the user thereafter when the carrier is used in the backpack mode.

[Please amend claim 72 as follows:]

72. (Amended) The customizing pack carrier in claim 71

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- a) further including a cushioning envelope surrounding part of said main frame adjacent to said face of said pack,
- b) wherein said fifth means for attaching said double-layered seat is selected from a group comprising of:
 - a) buttons, hook and loop fasteners, or other equivalent state of the art hardware for fastening the rear end of said double-layered seat directly onto the bottom edge of said cushioning envelope of said carrier,
 - b) ties, hook and loop fasteners, or other equivalent state of the art hardware for fastening the rear corners of said double-layered seat to the lower section of said main frame,
- B¹⁶
 c) wherein said sixth means for retaining said double-layered seat is selected from a group comprising of:
 - a) buttons, ties, hooks, hook and loop fasteners, or other equivalent state of the art hardware for attaching said double-layered seat directly onto the exposed side of said cushioning envelope of said main frame, and
 - b) buttons, ties, hooks, hook and loop fasteners, or other equivalent state of the art hardware for attaching said double-layered seat directly to said main frame just above the cushioned section.

[Please amend claim 73 as follows:]

73. (Amended) The customizing pack carrier in claim 69 wherein said second means for inclining said main frame is selected from a group comprising of:

- a) collapsible front support members,
- b) a fixable hinged connection between said base frame and said main frame, and
- c) base support members of predetermined shape to allow rocking or rotational motion in conjunction with reinforcing the connection between said main frame and said base frame.

[Please amend claim 74 as follows:]

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74. (Amended) The customizing pack carrier in claim 73 wherein said fixable hinged connection between said base frame and said main frame comprise:

a) the following on one part of said fixable hinged connection:

1. a circular hub having a normal centrally disposed cylindrical pin frame and a side window, said pin frame defining the axis of rotation of said hinged connection,
2. a spring biased plug 189L or 189L' retained normally and rotatably on said pin frame in said hub by a compression spring, said plug having a locking member on one side and a button on one end, said button dimensionally receivable into said side window of said hub,

b) the following on the other part of said fixable hinged connection:

1. a circular central recess having a central aperture for receiving an axis pin, said recess of size capable of receiving the rotating span of said locking member of said plug when said button of said plug is depressed,
2. notches or recess extensions on the perimeter of said central recess, each capable of mating with said locking member when said button is not in its depressed position, wherein each notch corresponds to a specific relative position between said base frame and said main frame, and

c) a hinge pin going through said pin frame and through said central aperture on said central recess, said pin being capped in place at both ends,

whereby given the above provisions, operating said fixable hinge connection comprise depressing and maintaining depressed position of said button of said plug disposed outside said side window of said hub and urging one part of said hinge connection to rotate past the other part until the desired relative position of both parts is reached after which pressure on said button is released and said locking tooth locks into position inside one of said recess extension, whereby the operation is easy, quick, flexible and lockable in the inclined and fully folded positions.

Please cancel claim 75.